NPIC/TSG-062/70

4 SEP 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Photographic Interpretation Center

SUBJECT : Request for Approval of a Contract with [redacted] for Development of a Sensitometric Processor at a Cost of [redacted] from FY-1971 R&D Funds

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1. This memorandum requests approval for the commitment of R&D Funds for an NPIC contract. The specific request is stated in paragraph 6.

2. The projected impact of large quantities of color on the Center and the intelligence community has resulted in generating a requirement for the development of color printing and processing standards. These standards are needed to provide a reference base of precisely repeatable processing against which the performance of printers and processors in the production facilities of the Center can be measured. This will insure the uniformity, within controlled limits, of prints, transparencies, and vugraphs produced within the Center. The Advanced Technology Branch is charged with the responsibility for developing such standards and making them available to the production facilities of the Center. To fulfill this responsibility for Color Standards requires that we have a precision processor for sensitometric processing and analysis of all presently available and projected color developing systems. This sensitometric processor must provide automatically controlled, repeatable processing for color materials in addition to the capability of precision development of commonly used black-and-white film. It must provide for controllable processing manipulations (chemical, temperature and time) of the development cycle. It will be utilized to develop processing standards for the Center, as well as for support to other programs.

3. It is desirable to develop a simple machine that has the necessary controls required to process color and black and white film in a precisely repeatable manner. This machine should be versatile enough to accept any new wet chemical systems that are projected in the foreseeable future. Investigation of the two currently available sensitometric processors revealed that the [redacted] processor is unique

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in its chemical handling system and that it provides all the required controls. It has been extremely reliable as a production developing system. It has the additional attractive feature of costing less than 25% of the other sensitometric processor available. The basic project plan will be to take an existing color processor and add the controls and recording instrumentation necessary to turn it into a sensitometric processor capable of handling film sizes up to 70mm. There is little technical risk involved in this modification.

4. Successful completion of this project will result in providing the Exploratory Laboratory with the capability to do precisely controlled development of color and black-and-white film. This will allow the laboratory to provide the production film processing facilities in NPIC with precise standards for all color materials in current use or under development in the foreseeable future. The cost of this development is expected to be approximately [redacted] It is expected that this machine can be assembled and tested approximately 120-to-150 days after the signing of the contract. Some additional follow-on modifications to accept film widths up to 6.6 inch film may be funded in FY-72 if operational requirements justify such capabilities.

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25X1 5. [redacted] will be the Project Officer for this contract. The Sterility [redacted] is appropriate for this work.

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6. It is requested that approval be granted for negotiations with [redacted] for a contract to conduct the development program described at a cost not to exceed [redacted] from Category V FY-1971 R&D Funds.

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[redacted]

Colonel, USAF
Acting Chief, Technical Services Group,
NPIC

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Attachments:
1. Proposal
2. Form 2420

[redacted]

29 SEP 1970

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APPROVED: _____ _____
ARTHUR C. LUNDAHL Date
Director
National Photographic Interpretation Center

Distribution:
Original - NPIC/SS/SC&PB (After approval)
1 - NPIC/ODir
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SPEED LETTER

REPLY REQUESTED: YES [ ] NO [ ]

DATE: 29 September 1970

LETTER NO.: PSG-152/70

TO : Executive Director, NPIC

ATTN:

FROM: Chief, Production Services Group

SUBJECT: Sensitometric Processor

1. In answer to your question asking if I am for this equipment, I can say, after an investigation into the "what and why" of the processor, yes, I am for the processor. However, until you asked the question and we did some checking, neither [redacted] or I 25X1 were aware of the processor development.

25X1 2. Jim's recent talks with [redacted] (who did research on this project as part of his PPBS study of TSG's R&D program) and [redacted] have indicated this processor 25X1 is to be used as a research tool to insure uniform duplication of material received by customers of the processing sites; to define any differences between copies and then determine the causes of these differences. They indicate this equipment is not for the PSG Photo Lab and is not intended to replace the color analyzer we have budgeted for. I find the attached memorandum requesting approval for this equipment does not clearly reflect to me the concept noted above. I get more from the memo that the equipment was intended to be used in the PSG Photo Lab, but I am assured that this is not the case. As near as I can determine, the Sensitometric Processor is a research tool to determine the exact characteristics of materials to be used in the reproduction process and relates these materials to the characteristics of the material being duplicated. The

SIGNATURE

REPLY

DATE

color analyzer we are planning to purchase is production equipment that analyzes material to be duplicated and tells us the exposure and processing time that will be required to reproduce this film; to more accurately establish our standards for exposure and processing of this material.

3. If this processing equipment is to assist the initial processing sites in producing uniform color reproductions for community distribution and color reproductions that represent "true color", I concur with the request for the Sensitometric Processor.
25X1 Also, [redacted] and I can both see with this equipment installed in the TSG technical lab it can assist us in verifying our own color control.

[redacted] 25X1

SIGNATURE

FORM 5-67 1831 USE PREVIOUS EDITIONS